

"Walking Through and Learning From the Storms of Life."  
John 6:16-21

Test (Mark "Yes" – 2 points or "No" 1 point):

1. Do you think that there is any storm that touches your life that God doesn't know about?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Do you think that there is any storm that touches your life that God cannot handle?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Do you think that there is any storm that touches your life that doesn't have a purpose?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Do you think that there is any storm that touches your life that shouldn't teach you something about you? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think that there is any storm that touches your life that shouldn't teach you something about your Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds." James 1:2

Principle: Nothing touches me that has not passed through the hands of my heavenly father. Nothing.

Storms of life reveal the following things about us:

1. The nature of my faith
2. The strength of my commitment
3. The level of my maturity
4. The healthiness of my attitude
5. The measure of my teachability

"Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it." Matthew 14:22-24

"He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. And He sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong." Matthew 5:45

What does Jesus do for us in the storm?

1. He prays for us.

"After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it." Matthew 14:22, 23

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16

2. He comes to us.

"A little while before morning, Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples." Matthew 14:25

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap." Malachi 3:1, 2

"Oh, that you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar!" Malachi 1:10

"My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name....For I am a great king and my name is to be feared among the nations." Malachi 1:11

"You have wearied the Lord with your words." Malachi 2:17

"You will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver." Malachi 3:3

- Jesus comes to us at our darkest hour
- Jesus comes to us victorious over our greatest fears

"When God allows us to be put into the furnace, he goes with us." C.H. Spurgeon

"But now, the Lord who created you, O Israel, says, 'Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. When you go through the deep waters and the great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through the rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up, and the flames will not consume you. Why? For I am the Lord, your God.'" Isaiah 43:1-5

3. He ministers to us

"And when Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down and the men in the boat worshipped Jesus and they said, "You really are the son of God." Matthew 14:32, 33

How will you respond in the midst of a storm?

1. Postpone a major decision until a crisis has passed, if at all possible
2. Don't go into isolation
3. Say no to fear, self-pity and "if onlys"
4. Keep up with life's routines
5. Admit feelings
6. Remember who is in control

Principle: You can't learn that Jesus is all you need – until Jesus is all you have.

Principle: God is in control – especially when it seems that everything else is out of control.